



Fast printouts that withstand moisture and oily fingers

GKN Wheels, located near the town of Lunderskov Denmark, manufactures wheels for special vehicles all over the world. In this connection, each of the company's printers produces more than 200,000 forms per year, all of which must be quite durable. For this purpose, GKN has invested in the fastest inkjet printer on the market – the Brother HL-S7000DN.

Business is good for GKN Wheels in the village of Nagbøl at Lunderskov Denmark. Its 300 employees are all busy making wheels. Very special and often large wheels for tractors, agricultural machinery and construction equipment.

It is a rather unknown market niche, but it is vast and profitable. Thus, worldwide, British GKN Land Systems has more than 55,000 employees engaged in producing many different products. The factory in South Jutland is just one of GKN Wheels' several wheel-manufacturing plants in Europe, the USA and China.

GKN Wheels supplies wheels to customers all over Europe, and some of the wheels from the small town near Kolding actually end up as far away as the USA and China.

With emphasis on exports, a voluminous paperwork is required – in all stages at GKN Wheels.

Two of the departments that produce many printouts are equipped with Brother printers. More particularly, the HL-S7000DN. It is an ultra-fast mono inkjet printer with a print speed of 100 pages per minute.







Started as the village blacksmith

The story of the Danish GKN factory is the tale of the little village blacksmith who could make all sorts of things in metal.

In the beginning, from 1900, Karl Møllers Maskinfabrik could only make small items and repairs, but gradually the company began to expand.

The first production of wrought iron wheels got underway, as did the production of such diverse things as road rollers, wheelbarrows, agricultural tools and grandfather clocks.

In 1973, the British GKN Group purchased Karl Møllers Maskinfabrik, which already at that time was one of Europe's leading manufacturers of custom wheels for the Danish State Railways.

Today, GKN's production is largely based on craftsmanship and skilled smiths. The wheels are much larger than those on e.g. cars. The quality needs to be very high because the machines, on which the wheels are to be placed, are exposed to severe strain.

Printouts must withstand moisture and oily fingers

Every day, dozens of trucks come to Nagbøl to collect wheels. They all get papers in terms of delivery notes, customs declarations and invoices.

On an annual basis, it can easily add up to 200,000 printouts from a single printer – and speed and reliability are not the only requirements from GKN Wheels:

"We had to be sure that the printouts were water-resistant and durable. They easily get in contact with oily fingers and exposed to dirt, grease and moisture in the truck cabs and our production. Here, the text on the printouts may not be rubbed out," explains Tommy Holm from GKN Wheels.

He is in charge for the daily operation of the company's ERP system and also responsible for the two Brother HL-S7000DN inkjet printers that spew out large volumes of paper every day.

The second Brother HL-S7000DN at GKN Wheels is primarily used for printing the A5 size job cards that accompany each order around in the production.



GKN primarily sells its wheels to large and well-known brands within agricultural and construction machinery. For example Claas and John Deere, Caterpillar and the crane giant Liebherr. In addition, GKN Wheels is specialised in wheels for mobile harbour cranes.



"Brother printers have a very solid construction. They are fast and reliable, and at the same time, the purchase price was fair," states Tommy Holm.

Brother's three-year warranty on the HL-S7000DN has been an important argument too, he adds. With 600,000 printouts in three years, the printer has virtually paid for itself.

High speed and low power consumption

The HL-S7000DN is Brother's fastest inkjet printer. It prints 100 monochrome pages per minute or 50 sheets printing on both sides of the paper

The HL-S7000DN is provided with a ceramic printing head, which is very durable. Brother guarantees a million printouts in the lifetime of the printer or a maximum of 275,000 prints per month.

The technology used is up to 90 percent more reliable than conventional laser printers. Furthermore, the printouts are completely water resistant.

An inkjet does not care if it is dry, humid, cold or hot, or where the printer is located. The paper is kept completely flat and smooth, whereas in a laser printer it tends to crumple and jam in damp environments.

Finally, the Brother HL-S7000DN uses only a fraction of the power of a comparable laser printer. More exactly, 130 watts in comparison to a typical 1,200 watts.